

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the specification and the remarks presented herein.

Contrary to the Examiner's statement, the claims in the application are claims 11 to 21; claims 1 to 10 were cancelled in the preliminary amendment filed with the application. In the event that the same was lost in the Patent Office, Applicant is submitting herewith a copy thereof and it is believed that these claims comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The specification has been amended to insert the headings, where appropriate, and a brief description of the drawings, as well as an Abstract of the Disclosure. Each of the trademarks in the application have been identified and capitalized where it appears. Therefore, the specification is believed to be proper.

With respect to the claims, they have been rejected as being obvious over the '931, the '394, the '736 and the '230 patents.

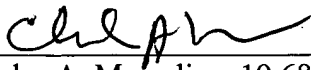
Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since the said references do not anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention which is directed to a device for transdermic administration of two active ingredients comprising a Compartment (A), containing an adhesive polymer matrix containing the first active

ingredient and a compartment (B), containing an adhesive polymer matrix containing the second active ingredient with each polymer matrix being covered with individual protective films (a) and a') and compartments (A) and (B) are supported on a peel-off protective film (b) at a distance of 1 to 10 mm apart and this is in no way taught by the prior art cited by the Examiner. Compartments (A) and (B) of Applicant's invention are covered directly by a single peel-off protective film which means that when the protective film is removed, you then have two separate patches that need to be fixed on the skin. This is in no way taught by the art cited by the Examiner.

The '931 patent, as conceded by the Examiner, teaches a system comprising two active ingredients containing matrix layers arranged side-by-side wherein one matrix is loaded with one active ingredient and the other is loaded with a second active ingredient. The two matrix are separated by space and care must be taken for sufficient spacing of the areas to prevent a diffusion of the active ingredient into the other area. With respect to the other references, they are directed to similar devices with different shapes and different constituents but the principles are the same. The devices may have different forms (see Fig. 5B of '230, Fig. 3 of '931 or Figs. 4 and 6 of the '736 patent). In these references, you always have two separate compartments separated by a space but the two compartments are supported by the same adhesive matrix covering itself by the same peel-off protective film. This means you then have one patch with two compartments, in contrast to Applicant's two separate compartments and are fixed by two separate patches on the skin. Therefore, the references do not render obvious Applicant's invention and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point Applicant's patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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